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PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS FOR MAIL BAGS.
Post Office Department,
January 15, 1863.

Sealed Proposals will be received at this Department until nine o'clock A. M. on the 21st DAY OF APRIL NEXT, for furnishing, for four years, from the first day of July, 1863, to such quantities and at such times as may be required and ordered for the service, MAIL BAGS of the following description, to wit:

LEATHER MAIL POUCHES

Of size No. 1, measuring forty-eight inches in length and sixty inches in circumference.
Of size No. 2, measuring forty-one inches in length and forty-eight inches in circumference.
Of size No. 3, measuring thirty-six inches in length and forty-two inches in circumference.
Of size No. 4, measuring twenty-six inches in length and twenty-eight inches in circumference.
The body of these pouches is to be made of good and substantial bag leather, well tanned, weighing three pounds to the square foot; the bottom (of circular form) and the square foot; the bottom (of circular form) and the side flap to be of good skirting leather, well tanned; the seams to be well and strongly sewed with the thong from rivets, well tinned.

LEATHERN HORSE MAIL BAGS.

(Saddle-bags Form.)

Of size No. 1, measuring forty-eight inches in length and twenty-one inches in width at the widest parts; the ends or bottoms being fourteen by seventy-six inches.
Of size No. 2, measuring forty-five inches in length and eighteen inches in width at the widest parts; the ends or bottoms being twelve by twenty-four inches.
These bags to be made of good and substantial leather, well tanned, weighing not less than seven pounds to the square foot; the seams to be strongly sewed; or if riveted, to be no closer as not to chafe horse or rider.

CANVASS MAIL BAGS.

Of size No. 1, measuring forty-three inches in length and sixty-two inches in circumference.
Of size No. 2, measuring forty-one inches in length and forty-eight inches in circumference.
Of size No. 3, measuring thirty-two inches in length and thirty-eight inches in circumference.
The marks of these sacks are the "I and N" size, to be made with a tabling or hem at the top, two inches wide, upon which a sufficient number of eyelet holes are to be worked, at least two to the former and eight to the latter—one to be at each end, and the others to be equidistant; and they are each to be provided with good and sufficient hemp cord to lace and tie them thoroughly. All are to be marked inside and outside "U. S. Mail," in large, distinct and durable letters.

In view of the present scarcity and high price of the various duck or canvass of which the mail sacks have hitherto been made, it is deemed inexpedient to limit the proposals to any one fabric, but to receive and consider such sacks in cotton, linen or hemp, or jute fabrics, or fanciful bagging, or of any material promising requisite strength and durability which may be considered an economical substitute for cotton canvass; and the Postmaster General will make such selection therefrom as he may deem to be, in connection with the bids, the most advantageous to the Department.

Proposals for improvements in the form or construction of mail bags, as in the materials, of any of the above described bags will be received and considered, and they are to be rigidly adapted to the service, as well as to the lowest price of any such improvements, will be considered in determining the lowest and best bid.

All articles contracted for are to be delivered at the expense of the contractor, in Boston, Massachusetts; New York and Albany, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Baltimore, Maryland; Washington, D. C.; Louisville, Kentucky; Cincinnati, Ohio; St. Louis, Missouri; and Chicago, Illinois, in such quantities and at such times as the Department may order. And they are to be rigidly enforced before delivery, and none are to be received which are below service, in any respect, to the specimens adopted as the standard bags.

No proposal should specify the price of each article required to be furnished.

No proposal will be considered if not accompanied with specimen or samples of each article bid for, showing the workmanship, size, and quality of material and workmanship offered, and also with a written guarantee from the persons proposed as sureties that their responsibility must be certified by the postmaster of the place where they reside, that they will become responsible, on sufficient bond, for the due performance of the contract, in case such proposal be accepted.

The specimens or samples must be delivered at this Department on or before the 21st day of April next, and those which will leave the contractor the lowest price, will, in connection with such proposal, be the basis of the contract to be made.

Sample specimens submitted should be well and distinctly marked with the number denoting its size, and the name of the bidder, and the name and residence (if a farmer) of whom the materials are manufactured.

All specimens deposited by bidders, which can, with safety and convenience, be used in the mail service will be paid for at the price specified in the proposal relating to the same.

No decision on the bids will be made on or before the 10th day of May next; and the accepted bidder will be required to enter into contract, with satisfactory bond and sureties, on or before the 20th day of June, 1863.

The whole number of mail bags annually required will probably not exceed the following estimates, to wit:

5,000 mail bags;
500 horse mail bags; and
25,000 canvass mail sacks.

But the Postmaster General will reserve the right to order more or less than the kinds of the kinds above described to be furnished and received, as the interest and economy of the service may seem to him to demand, during the term for which the contracts are to be made.

The proposals should be transmitted in a sealed envelope, indorsed "Proposals for Mail Bags," and be addressed to the Postmaster General, Washington, D. C.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster General.

ARMY CLOTHING AND EQUIPAGE OFFICE, 107 LIBERTY and GIRARD BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA, March 31st, 1863.

SEALED PROPOSALS are invited and will be received at this office until 12 o'clock M. on FRIDAY, the 10th day of April, 1863, for furnishing and delivering at the Schuylkill Arsenal, Fairmount, Philadelphia, the following articles, to be of the different articles to be kept on hand at this office:

Cloth of indigo wool dyed flannel shirt blue cloth, of white or gray domet flannel.
Drawers, flannel.
Cotton Flannel.
Woollen Blankets, to weigh three (3) pounds to the pair.
Woollen Socks, or stockings knitted.
Cotton Shirts, complete.
Cotton Handkerchiefs.
Cravats, or Stocks.
Suspenders.
Pocket-combs.
Pocket-knives and Forks.
Pocket-knives and Forks.
Pocket-knives and Forks